

THE PONY CLUB NFU MUTUAL NATIONAL QUIZ 2015 – REPORT

Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell was the venue for the annual Pony Club NFU Mutual National Quiz, held at the Sports Hall on Saturday, 4th April. A total of twenty-eight Branch and Centre teams competed, including teams from Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland. Unfortunately Danley Marshes Riding Centre had transport issues and had to withdraw at the last minute.

The quiz consisted of 8 rounds of questions and topics included The Pony Club, Recognising Horse Ailments, Around the Countryside, Breeds, Colours & Markings, Practical Round (Individual), Travelling & Road Safety (Pairs), Know Your Spellings, and the Picture Round. A Powerpoint display ensured that competitors, parents and spectators were able to view the questions as they were read out, followed by the answers once all answer sheets were handed into the scorers.

Once the Team Managers were briefed, the competitors settled down and the Quiz got under way by the Quiz Master, Mrs Marilyn Boardman.

A lunch break was taken after Round 4 where, at the halfway stage, Bramham Moor Hunt were in the lead with 101 points, closely followed by Hampshire Hunt, 100.5 points and in third at this stage was Chipping with 96 points. The leading Centre at this point was Lavant House Stables with 87.6 points, closely followed by Pennant Park Riding Centre on 84.6 and Throstle Nest Riding School on 75.5 points.

The standard of knowledge from all quiz competitors was extremely high again this year particularly in Round 7 – Know Your Spellings, with 9 Branches, Hampshire Hunt, Chipping, Moray & Nairn, Eggesford Hunt, Duke of Buccleuch's Hunt, Cheshire Hunt North, United Pack, Pembrokeshire Hunt and Wyndham and 5 Centres, Lavant House Stables, Field House Equestrian Centre, Bowlings Riding School, Pennant Park Riding Centre and Holymoore Riding School obtaining maximum points for this round.

The Branch winners this year were Hampshire Hunt with 276.5 points, 30 points clear over their nearest rivals, Chipping on 246.5 points, closely followed in third place by Bramham Moor Hunt with 246 points.

The Centre winners, were Lavant House Stables, who won for the third year running with 206.5 points, followed by Tumpy Green Equestrian Centre, competing for the first time, on 197 and Field House Equestrian Centre and Throstle Nest Riding School both on 196.5 points. Field House took the honours for third place as in the event of a draw, the highest score in The Pony Club round decided the placings.

The home made displays were exceptionally good with Pennant Park Riding Centre taking the first place rosette for the second year running with their very artistic papier mache horse's head and the runners up rosette went to the Wyndham Branch for their mini display called All About the Horse.

Very, very special thanks must go to NFU Mutual for sponsoring the National Quiz for the last eight years and for providing the lovely rosettes, grooming kit prizes, sashes & salvers and also the additional prizes of easy fill haynets and yellow tub trugs. Each competitor also received a small pot of Haribo jelly beans on the day from NFU Mutual which was very much appreciated by all.

Also many, many thanks go to Angela Craddock and Mary Anderson for devising the quiz questions, Marilyn Boardman for being our excellent quizmaster, my daughter Jessica and staff from The Pony Club Office, Becky Davies, Georgina Hayward, Bronte Wadge-Dale, Andrew Brown and Marty Bibby who did the scoring and Pat Sansome who provided some of the Practical Round items and adjudicated in the hall and the Practical Round. Mary and Pat will now be retiring from their involvement in the quiz and I would sincerely like to thank them for their brilliant help over the past few years.

Hannah Clack - National Quiz Secretary